

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Schnurr opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

“Swearing In and Oath of Office: Patrolman Rolando Ensuar, Freehold Borough Police Department.”

Mayor Higgins welcomed Patrolman Ensuar and announced he comes to Freehold with a great reputation from Lake Cuomo. There have been many wonderful things said about him. The Mayor has seen him the last few weeks around town and he is fitting in very nicely with the Police Department. Mayor Higgins told Patrolman Ensuar he is joining a great department and Freehold is very happy to have him here.

Patrolman Ensuar was joined by his wife and Chief Roberts for the Oath of Office, administered by Mayor Higgins.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Police Accreditation Presentation”

Chief Roberts introduced Chief Harry J. Delgado, Accreditation Program Manager from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, who will present the Freehold Borough Police Department with a certificate for achieving accreditation.

Chief Delgado stated that Freehold Borough has one of the best police departments not only in the State of New Jersey, but in the nation. Chief Delgado reported there are over 470 agencies in New Jersey eligible for accreditation and only 152 are accredited. The Freehold

Borough Police Department completed a rigorous, two year process and met or exceeded accepted practices in the field of law enforcement.

Chief Roberts thanked Mayor, Council and Mr. Bellina, Borough Administrator. He thanked everyone within the department for all of their hard work and dedication in accomplishing this goal.

Mayor and Council recognized Chief Roberts for having the idea and completing the project so quickly. Mayor Higgins stated it is a proud moment in the police department's history.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting April 4, 2016.”

Councilman Sims offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

On roll call Council Members Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none, abstain DiBenedetto. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold declaring April 29, 2016 “Arbor Day” in the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilman Griffiths reported The Shade Tree Commission is having a poster contest with the schools. Prizes will be awarded thanks to the downtown merchants. The Tree City USA award has been given to Freehold Borough for the 19th consecutive year. In early May, seedlings will be passed out to anyone who wishes to plant a seedling in their yard. The seedlings are free and provided by the state.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing a Grant Agreement Between the Borough of Freehold and State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the 2017 Tree Planting Project.”

Councilman Griffiths offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH
OF FREEHOLD AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE 2017 TREE PLANTING PROJECT.

Councilman Griffiths thanked the Certified Forester Bill Brash and Business Administrator for completing the grant application. If the \$30,000 is received, it will go towards planting street trees.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving Application for Library State Aid.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR LIBRARY STATE AID.

Councilman Schnurr reported this is something that is done every year.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2016 Professional Services Projects with Abbington Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2016 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROJECTS WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Councilman Sims reported this is for various 2016 road projects.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing a Reduction in Performance Guarantee for On-Site Improvements made to the Property Known as Block 69, Lots 3, 4 and 5 (Freehold Area Habitat for Humanity).”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR ON-SITE IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 69, LOTS 3, 4 AND 5 (FREEHOLD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY).

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Subordination of Mortgage Given to Borough of Freehold Housing Rehabilitation Program Concerning RCA Case Number FBHRP11-103.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD APPROVING SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE GIVEN TO BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM CONCERNING RCA CASE NUMBER FBHRP11-103.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving Participation With The State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered By The Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety (Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program).”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY (SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM).

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Compensation Payment to Matthew Trembow Upon His Separation From Employment.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO MATTHEW TREMBOW UPON HIS SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Resignation of Maryann Cullen as Library Aide, effective August 1, 2016.**
- b. Resignation of Gretchen Gilroy as Municipal Court Clerk, effective April 25, 2016.**
- c. Appointment of Lynn Cannon as Alternate Deputy Registrar, effective April 18, 2016.**
- d. Resignation of Nicolas J. Palumbo as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Co., effective April 7, 2016.**
- e. Resignation of Nicolas A. Palumbo as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Co., effective April 7, 2016.**
- f. Resignation of Thomas S. Kirkland as Fire Prevention Inspector, effective April 4, 2016.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS 15A-15F.

Councilwoman Shutzer expressed her gratitude to those that are leaving and welcomed the new appointments.

Councilman Schnurr reported Maryann Cullen has expressed an interest in possibly returning in six months.

Mayor Higgins recognized those are leaving service in the Borough. He expressed great

admiration for Maryann Cullen, who is a great advocate for the library and the town. He wished her well and hopes she can come back in the future.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Raffle License #13-16, PBA Local 314, Monmouth County Sheriff's Officers Civic Association, Merchandise Raffle, 8/10/16, 12:30 PM, 71 Monument Street.**
- b. Raffle License #14-16, St. Rose of Lima School, Merchandise Raffle, 5/20/16, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM, 51 Lincoln Place.**
- c. Raffle License #15-16, St. Rose of Lima School, On Premise Draw Raffle, 5/20/16, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM, 51 Lincoln Place.**
- d. Raffle License #16-16, St. Rose of Lima School, 50/50, 5/20/16, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM, 51 Lincoln Place.**
- e. Canning License, Freehold Borough Youth Government, 5/1/16, 11AM – 1:00 PM, Intersection: East Main St./Center St./Spring St. and Broadway.**
- f. Canning License, Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder, 11/25/16 and 11/26/16, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Intersection: East Main St./Center St./Spring St. and Broadway.**
- g. Peddler/Vendor License, Bruce Winland, Weaser's Ices, Monday – Sunday, 1:00 PM-8:00 PM.**
- h. Freehold Letter Carriers, MDA Walkathon, 6/26/16, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, beginning in the Market Yard Parking Lot to W. Main St. to Brinkerhoff Ave. to South St. to W. Main St., ending back at the Market Yard Parking Lot. (Sidewalks only)
c/o Jeff Harness**
- i. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Victor Gutierrez, Old Bridge.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS 16A-16I.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain Sims #16E & 16F. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$2,174,847.01 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Items for Discussion

a. Participatory Budgeting

Councilman Griffiths explained the concept which began in 1989 and has reached 1,500 cities worldwide. The process is to take a portion of your capital budget and allow the public to decide how it is spent. Councilman Griffiths noted several benefits such as more attendance at the meetings, increased voter turn out, improve public perception of politicians and citizens getting involved in their government.

Councilman Griffiths stated tapping the resources of the citizens will make Freehold the best it can be. It will engage the citizens but will take six months to a year to complete because parameters have to be set, public gets educated and the process of having them express what capital improvements they suggest takes time. Capital improvements are something that must be a benefit to the community, last at least five years and be low maintenance. No additional money will be spent from the budget, the priorities will be shifted to those of the public. No one in New Jersey is currently doing this. Councilman Griffiths explained that voting regulations can be changed to suit the needs, such as 15 year olds being allowed to vote. Teenagers have ideas and know what is going on.

Mr. Bellina reported he visited New York City, which participates in this budgeting concept. He discovered there are 51 council districts and since they started in 2011, 28 currently use this process. The participating districts save roughly 1/5 of their budget for this. It takes a staff member 50%-75% of their time to manage this process. Residents can vote on five projects only, voters are 14 or older and must provide proof of district residents. 51,000 ballots were received last year.

Councilman Kane stated it was brought up to the Finance Committee and he feels it is a great idea to explore.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Committee Reports.”

Councilman Schnurr reported Memorial Day Parade details will be discussed at the next meeting. Fundraising continues and meeting attendance is high; the next fundraiser is at the Cabin. The VFW is having a Memorial Butterfly Release at 4:00 PM on Sunday, May 22nd. The butterflies are \$15 and they can be released in memory of a loved one.

Councilman Schnurr reported the library is having a children's book sale on Wednesday. For Land Use, there is a zoning interpretation being heard for The Amazing Escape Room. The next meeting is on April 27th.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported Public Safety will be having a meeting soon. Public Works has been doing a lot of road work, and is keeping up the road repairs.

Mr. Bellina added the gas company is doing trench repairs and restorations.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced a letter was received from a resident on Edgewood Drive complementing the way the park was cleaned up.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported Recreation had a great Easter Egg Hunt and the YMCA Borough Basketball League was filled with children, playing at Intermediate School. Recreation is looking forward to the YMCA setting up the summer programs. Councilman DiBenedetto stated Historic Preservation has been quiet with few applications. The committee is looking for award winners and grants are awarded for houses that have been historically preserved. If you have any recommendations, please pass them along. Freehold Center Partnership has been busy. New signage for Lafayette is being considered. The Irish Week festivities were a great success. Spring planting will be May 15th and it is the 10th Anniversary for Freehold Idol. A lively downtown is expected with the arrival of the summer weather.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Maryann Cullen and the Palumbo's for their service. Officer Ensuar was welcomed to the Freehold Police Department.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced Advisory Council on Aging is meeting tomorrow at the YMCA in the Rugmill and will be joining the SCAN program which meets every Tuesday. They offer lots of wonderful programs for seniors through May 31st. Councilwoman Shutzer reported last week a busload of representatives went to Trenton for the Senate Budget Hearing to ask for fuller funding for the school district. The group will return next Wednesday to be part of the Assembly Budget Hearing.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Freehold Alliance Against Substance Abuse is holding their annual golf outing. Brochures and applications are available. This event and the Flavor of Freehold fund the Alliance's programs.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the McGackin Award will be held at the Knights of Columbus on May 20th at 7:00. Tickets are only \$10.00. All are welcome. Awards will be given to Volunteer Mary Randolph and Business Owner Mike Page. Honorees include the Police Dept., Fire Dept., First Aid, Little League, Knights of Columbus and the Elks for their charitable acts.

Councilman Kane announced Matt Young is doing a great job in Code Enforcement since Hank Stryker retired. The budget is being finalized by the Finance Committee. The Health and

Welfare Committee has approved a no smoking ordinance in the public parks. It will be coming before Mayor and Council.

Councilman Kane reported Lake Topanemus Commission had a large clean up and announced two great events. May 14th is the Central Jersey Irish Festival and July 23rd is the 40th Anniversary of the first Olde Freehold Day.

Councilman Griffiths reported the Human Relations Committee is working on Volunteer Day and Senior Appreciation Day. There will be a commemorative service at Borough Hall on September 11th in honor of the 15th anniversary of the attack on the United States.

Councilman Griffiths reported there were 35 people in the audience of the Senate hearing, wearing orange shirts saying our kids matter too. There were 12 people from Red Bank as well. Councilman Griffiths stated Freehold is the 3rd most underfunded school system in New Jersey out of over 600 districts. Senator Jennifer Beck joined the group and the hope is to have more towns and more people attend the hearings next Wednesday.

Councilman Sims reported hydrant flushing will start on May 4th at 8:00 AM which may cause discoloration to the water. Youth Government will be going to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on May 14th and are thankful for all the donations and fundraising support.

Mayor Higgins recognized Mayor Roger Kane for attending. Mayor Higgins announced the rededication of Gere Park will be held on May 7th. The Freehold Little League Parade was held this past weekend. Little League is in great shape and it was an impressive day. The Center Players celebrated their 30th Anniversary at a recent banquet and Mayor Higgins, Mayor Kane and Councilwoman Shutzer represented the municipality.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comment.”

Ms. Christine Gregory, West George Street expressed a concern some neighbors had regarding the property assessment and asked what happens if the assessor is not let in.

Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney responded if the homeowner refuses to let the assessor in, they will assume there is an updated kitchen, bath, etc. It is in the homeowner's best interest to let the assessor in.

Ms. Gregory noted that with all off the street closures and detours due to road work, people are going down West George Street at accelerated speeds. Ms. Gregory asked if a police officer can be assigned there until the construction is done.

Chief Roberts stated it would be addressed.

Councilman Griffiths offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent none; abstain none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

The council meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc